

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, beginning at line 22, with the following paragraph:

SueB2
AJ2

-- The present invention is also directed to a connective tissue cell line comprising a recombinant viral or plasmid vector comprising a DNA sequence encoding a member of the transforming growth factor superfamily. The connective tissue cell line may include, but is not limited to, a fibroblast cell line, a chondrocyte cell line, an osteoblast cell line, or an osteocyte cell line. The fibroblast cell line may be a human foreskin fibroblast cell line or NIH 3T3 cell line. --

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, beginning at line 22, with the following paragraph:

SueB3
AJ3

-- As used herein, the term "connective tissue cell" or "cell of a connective tissue" include cells that are found in the connective tissue, such as fibroblasts, cartilage cells (chondrocytes), and bone cells (osteoblasts/ osteocytes), which secrete collagenous extracellular matrix, as well as fat cells (adipocytes) and smooth muscle cells. Preferably, the connective tissue cells are fibroblasts, cartilage cells, and bone cells. More preferably, the connective tissue cells are fibroblast cells. It will be recognized that the invention can be practiced with a mixed culture of connective tissue cells, as well as cells of a single type. It is also recognized that the tissue cells may be treated such as by chemical or radiation so that the cells stably express the gene of interest, preferably TGF- β . --

In the Claims:

Please replace claim 6, with the following amended claim 6: